

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
JUDICIARY
SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1004

July 9, 2009

SUBCOMMITTEES:
AIR AND LAND FORCES
STRATEGIC FORCES
COURTS, INTERNET, AND
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
CRIME, TERRORISM, AND HOMELAND
SECURITY
FINANCE AND TAX
RURAL AND URBAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Honorable Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, M.D., Ph.D.
Army Surgeon General
Office of the Surgeon General of the Army
5109 Leesburg Pike, Suite 671
Falls Church, VA 22041-3258

Secretary Geren and Lieutenant General Shoomaker:

We are writing regarding the use of live animals during the course of training for military medical personnel. We acknowledge the vital importance of preparing medical personnel with the most educationally effective training methods, and we also are prepared to facilitate a full transition away from the use of animals for the purposes of training. It is important to note that, as evidenced by Army Regulation 40-33, the Armed Forces also share this view. As a result, it is of vital importance that the joint regulation cited below is adhered to by the Department of the Army.

This joint regulation is clear in its intention to prohibit the use of nonhuman primates, marine mammals, dogs, and cats to simulate traumatic injury in humans. According to paragraphs 5(h)(2) and 5(h)(3) the joint regulation prohibits using nonhuman primates for (1) Research conducted for development of biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons. (2) Inflicting wounds with any type of weapon(s) to conduct training in surgical or other medical treatment procedures. (3) Advanced trauma life-support (ATLS) training. However, the Army's Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense uses live monkeys to train medical personnel how to respond to symptoms of a nerve agent attack.

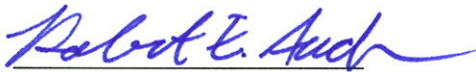
More generally, with regard to all other species of animals, this joint regulation also states that "[a]lternative methods to the use of animals must be considered and used..." in such circumstances as this type of training. As you know, the Army and other Services use live pigs and goats to train physicians, medics, and corpsmen to respond to traumatic battlefield injuries. It has come to our attention that non-animal training methods—including medical simulators and embedding personnel in civilian trauma centers—exist that can replace the use of animals.

Since your current use of animals for this training involves inflicting traumatic injuries upon animals, we endeavor to help the Army expedite all possible methods of animal replacement. For these reasons we would like to see a thorough evaluation of the current methods of combat trauma training and chemical casualty management training. We respectfully request information on current protocols and plans for the replacement of animal use in compliance with Army Regulation 40-33.

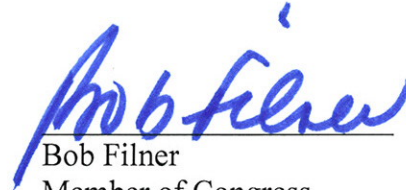
Sincerely,



Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



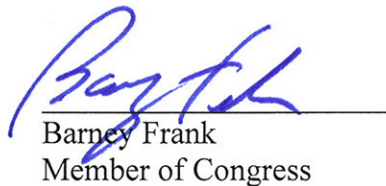
Robert Andrews
Member of Congress



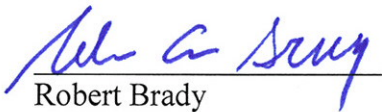
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



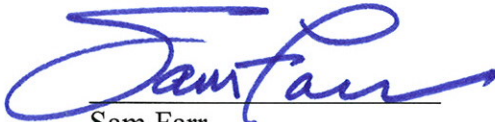
Barney Frank
Member of Congress



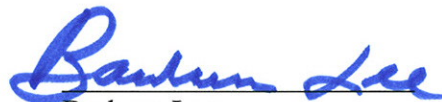
Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



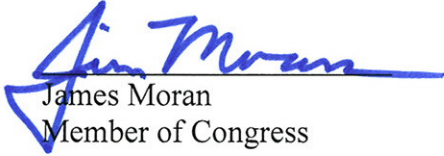
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



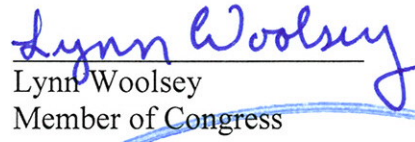
George Miller
Member of Congress



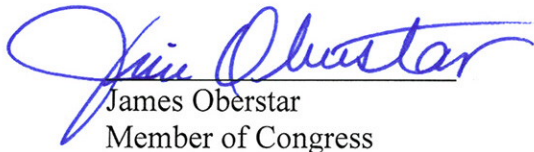
Steve Rothman
Member of Congress



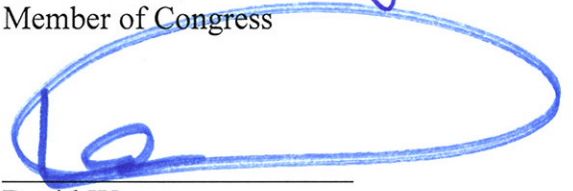
James Moran
Member of Congress



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress



James Oberstar
Member of Congress



David Wu
Member of Congress